

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An automobile entry detector for use with a conventional garage door opener comprising:
 - 5 a photocell;
 - an electrical connector having a first end and a second end and connected on said first end to said photocell; and
 - an indicator lamp connected to said second end of said electrical connector.
- 10 2. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 1 wherein said photocell is connected to the light receptor of a conventional garage door opener unit that includes a garage door opener motor and controller, a garage door opener control switch, and a light transmitter that transmits a beam of light to said light receptor with an LED indicator wherein said LED indicator is illuminated when said beam of light is interrupted.
- 15 3. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 2 wherein said light transmitter and said light receptor are positioned within a parking structure toward the forward entry wherein the passage of the leading edge of a vehicle into said parking structure will interrupt said beam of light and said beam of light will continue to be interrupted until the trailing edge of said vehicle passes said light transmitter and said light receptor.
- 20 4. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 2 wherein said photocell receives data from said light receptor unit and activates said indicator for illumination when said LED indicator of said light receptor is illuminated.
- 25 5. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 1 wherein said indicator lamp is connected to the rear wall of the parking structure into which said detector is mounted wherein said lamp is located at eye level with respect to the driver of a vehicle.
6. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 1 wherein said indicator lamp further comprises:
 - 30

a housing having a rear wall and side walls;
a light bulb receptacle connected to said rear wall of said housing;
a light bulb removably connected to said light bulb receptacle; and
a protective cover surrounding said light bulb without contacting said light
5 bulb and removably connected to said side walls of said housing.

7. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 6 wherein said protective
cover is made from a translucent or transparent material.

8. An automobile entry detector for garages comprising:
a light transmitter unit capable of transmitting a beam of light;
10 a garage door opener controller unit electrically connected to said light
transmitter unit;
a garage door opener motor connected to said controller unit;
a garage door opener activation switch connected to said controller unit;
a light receptor unit electrically connected to said controller unit;
15 an LED connected to said light receptor unit;
a safety circuit connected to said controller unit;
a switch connected to said safety circuit and to said light receptor unit; and
an indicator lamp electrically connected to said switch.

9. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 8 wherein said light transmitter
20 and said light receptor are positioned within a parking structure toward the
forward entry wherein said beam of light from said light transmitter unit is
received by said light receptor unit and wherein the passage of the leading edge of
a vehicle into said parking structure will interrupt said beam of light and said
beam of light will continue to be interrupted until the trailing edge of said vehicle
25 passes said light transmitter unit and said light receptor unit.

10. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 9 wherein said LED is
illuminated only when said beam of light is interrupted.

11. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 8 wherein said indicator lamp
is connected to the rear wall of the parking structure into which said detector is

mounted wherein said lamp is located at eye level with respect to the driver of a vehicle.

12. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 8 wherein said indicator lamp further comprises:

5 a housing having a rear wall and side walls;

a light bulb receptacle connected to said rear wall of said housing;

a light bulb removably connected to said light bulb receptacle; and

a protective cover surrounding said light bulb without contacting said light bulb and removably connected to said side walls of said housing.

10 13. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 12 wherein said protective cover is made from a translucent or transparent material.

14. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 8 wherein said switch controls the illumination of said indicator lamp and illuminates said lamp when an interruption of said light beam from said light transmitter unit to said light receptor unit is detected.

15 15. An automobile entry detector for garages comprising:

a light transmitter unit capable of transmitting a beam of light;

a garage door opener controller unit electrically connected to said light transmitter unit;

20 a garage door opener motor connected to said controller unit;

a garage door opener activation switch connected to said controller unit;

a light receptor unit electrically connected to said controller unit;

an LED connected to said light receptor unit; and

a light pipe capable of transmitting light and connected to said LED.

25 16. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 15 wherein said light transmitter and said light receptor are positioned within a parking structure toward the forward entry wherein said beam of light from said light transmitter unit is received by said light receptor unit and wherein the passage of the leading edge of a vehicle into said parking structure will interrupt said beam of light and said

beam of light will continue to be interrupted until the trailing edge of said vehicle passes said light transmitter unit and said light receptor unit.

17. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 16 wherein said LED is illuminated only when said beam of light is interrupted.

5 18. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 17 wherein said light pipe is positioned to transmit light to a position on the rear wall of said parking structure that would be readily visible to the driver of said vehicle.

19. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 18 wherein said light pipe transmits light only when said LED is illuminated.

10 20. The automobile entry detector for garages of claim 15 wherein said light pipe is repositionable to change the location of the transmitted light beam.